

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 4-7, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A contents processing apparatus comprising:

a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents packages, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents packages, plug-in modules including executable operative functions for ~~executing~~ processing ~~[[of]]~~ contents packages, and a plug-in management file for defining the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of ~~[[the]]~~ respective plug-in modules, wherein the contents management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective contents packages based on the respective licenses ~~managing operations for respective contents~~, and the plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of ~~managing operative functions for~~ the respective plug-in modules;

a plug-in setting device that installs plug-in modules for processing a contents package ~~corresponding to the contents to be processed~~;

an operation recognition device that identifies permitted operations ~~relating~~ related to the ~~execution of processing of the contents package to be processed~~ from the contents management file corresponding to the contents package ~~to be processed~~;

an execution instructing device that provides an instruction for ~~executing the~~ processing ~~[[of]]~~ the contents package;

a plug-in function permission device that permits use of plug-in modules ~~the executable operative functions defined by said plug-in management file and~~ corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition device, among functions of the plug-in

modules installed by said plug-in setting device for processing the contents package based on the limit information for the respective plug-in modules, ~~with respect to the processing of the contents instructed to be executed by said execution instructing device~~; and

a contents processing execution device that ~~executes processing of~~ processes the contents package to be processed, according to the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents processing apparatus is coupled to an external apparatus via a communication network, and the contents management file is obtained from the external apparatus via the communication network.

4. (Currently Amended) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents management file is rewritable and is obtained independently of the contents packages corresponding thereto.

5. (Currently Amended) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plug-in management file is rewritable and is obtained independently of the contents packages corresponding thereto.

6. (Currently Amended) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a ~~[[the]]~~ contents package ~~[[are]]~~ is inhibited from being used when there is no contents management file corresponding to the contents package, and are also inhibited from being processed when there is no plug-in management file corresponding to the contents package.

7. (Currently Amended) A storage medium having encoded thereon a contents processing program including instructions, which when executed by a contents processing apparatus including a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents packages, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents packages, plug-in modules including executable operative functions for ~~executing~~ processing ~~[[of]]~~ contents packages, and a plug-in management file for defining the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of ~~[[the]]~~ respective plug-in modules, wherein the contents management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective contents packages based on the respective licenses ~~managing operations for respective contents~~, and the plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the ~~managing operative functions for~~ respective plug-in modules, causes:

installing, by a plug-in setting module, plug-in modules for processing a contents package ~~corresponding to contents to be processed~~;

identifying, by an operation recognition module, permitted operations ~~relating~~ related to ~~execution of~~ the processing of the contents package ~~to be processed~~ from the contents management file corresponding to the contents package ~~to be processed~~;

providing an instruction for ~~executing the~~ processing ~~[[of]]~~ the contents package;

permitting, by a plug-in function permission module, use of plug-in modules ~~the~~ ~~executable operative functions defined by said plug-in management file and~~ corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition module, among functions of the plug-in modules installed by said plug-in setting module for processing the contents package based on the limit information for the respective plug-in modules, ~~with respect to the processing~~

~~of the contents instructed to be executed by said execution instructing device; and~~

executing, by a contents processing execution module, processing of the contents package
~~to be processed~~, according to the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules permitted
by said plug-in function permission module.

8. (Previously Presented) A contents processing apparatus according to claim 1,
further including an update device that updates the plug-in management file.

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